Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EGEN, AR

SUBJECT: ECONOMY MINISTER'S REPORT TO CONGRESS

REF: BA-2674

1. AVOIDING LITANY OF GLOWING ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECITED BY MANY OTHER MINISTERS, GOMEZ MORALES INSTEAD AT MAY 1 OPENING SESSION OF CONGRESS GAVE BRIEF AND SOMEWHAT SOMBER REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN 1974 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1975. TONE OF SPEECH CONTRASTED WITH MORE POSITIVE NOTE STRUCK BY OTHER CABINET MEMBERS. PRODUCE MORE AND BETTER AND SPEND LESS WAS BASIC THEME OF HIS MESSAGE. MINISTER WAS SURPRISINGLY OUTSPOKEN IN ATTRIBUTING BLAME FOR SOME CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO MISTAKEN POLICIES FOLLOWED BY HIS PREDECESSOR. HIGHLIGHTS AS FOLLOWS:

-----ARGENTINA CANNOT ESCAPE EFFECTS WORLD CRISIS WHICH NOW
ADVERSELY AFFECTING ARGENTINA'S EXTERNAL COMMERCE AND BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS. TO OVERCOME EXTERNAL PROBLEMS, GOA MUST FOLLOW
AGGRESSIVE EXPORT EXPANSION POLICY. IMPORTS HAVE EXCEEDED
REQUIREMENTS AND THUS PLACED UNDER CONTROL, BUT NEW
REGIME WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE RAW
MATERIAL SUPPLIES.
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-----GDP GROWTH IN 1974 AT 7.2 PERCENT SLIGHTLY

EXCEEDED THREE YEAR PLAN TARGETS. NEVERTHELESS, EXPANSION INFLUENCED BY SHARP INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPED FROM SITUATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDERUTILIZED INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY WHICH NOW OVER. IN 1975, PLAN TARGETS CAN ALSO BE MET BY RAISING PRODUCTIVITY AND INVESTMENT PROVIDING GRAVE PROBLEMS IN EXTERNAL SECTOR CAN BE AVOIDED.

------INVESTMENT POLICY REQUIRES APPROPRIATE BALANCE BETWEEN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PURPOSES. INVESTMENT IN PRODUCTIVE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT THUS FAR INSUFFICIENT AND MUST BE STIMULATED. INDUSTRIAL AND MINERAL PROMOTION LAWS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE THEY FAVOR BACKWARD REGIONS BUT SPECULATORS WHO SEEK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE WILL NOT PROSPER.

-------PRESENT INFLATION NOT JUST MONETARY. INSUFFICIENT

PRODUCTION AND STRUGGLE AMONG DIFFERENT SOCIAL
SECTORS FOR INCREASED REAL INCOME ALSO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE.
-----TO OVERCOME FISCAL DEFICIT, IT'S NECESSARY TO REDUCE
EXPENDITURES WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING INVESTMENT, AND ALSO
TO REVISE TAX SYSTEM AND ATTACK EVASION.
-----SEVERAL EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE INDISPENSABLE TO AVOID

------SEVERAL EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE INDISPENSABLE TO AVOID ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND UNEMPLOYMENT. COOPERATION AND CONCERTED ACTION ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

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